(b) whether most of the employees did not avail the concession in early service career for obvious reasons and thus forego their entitlement; and

(c) if so, whether Government would extend this benefit of carry over to Central Government employees at the time of their retirement in order to boost tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various controlling authorities in the Ministries/Departments are empowered to regulate the Leave Travel Concession claims in respect of the Government servants working under them. Hence, no data is centrally maintained in this regard.

(c) Under the Central Civil Services (Leave Travel Concession) rules, a Government servant who is unable to avail of the Leave Travel Concession within a particular block of four years, may avail of the same within the first years off the next block of four years but the facility cannot be availed after retirement. The Leave Travel Concession Rules-are already liberal and no further liberalisation is under consideration.

Measures to contain quantum of flaring loss of Natural Gas

3620. DR. (SMT) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the quantum of flaring loss of Natural Gas, so far incurred from the super Assam oilfield, quantity-wise and value-wise, and measures initiated by Government to contain the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): The quantum of gas flared from the Upper Assam oil field till end of March, 2000 was approximately 21.7 BCM. The notional value of gas flared including technical and unavoidable flaring comes to approximately Rs. 588 crores.

Efforts to reduce gas flaring is a continuous process. Some of the measures undertaken to reduce gas Flaring include—

(i) Installation of compression facility, debottlenecking and construction of gas evacuation pipelines.

(ii) Incorporation of capacity control in gas compressors and installation of Gas Holders in order to negate surging effect.

(iii) Storage cum Flow back scheme in order to conserve gas in underground depleted reservoirs during low upliftment by outside consumers.

Strategy to meet the growing demand of LPG

3621. SHRI C. RAMCHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that-Governemnt have drawn a strategy to meet the growing demand of the LPG in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the backlog of the demand, State-wise; and

(d) what is the time frame to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERTROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) To meet the growing demand of LPG, Oil Industry has drawn plans to augment the LPG marketing infrastructure such as augmenting the LPG bottling capacity, storage, movement capacities and setting up of new LPG distributorships etc. In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply, Government has also allowed import of LPG Under Parallel Marketing Scheme.

(c) and (d) The demand of existing consumers registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Marketing Companies, in the country is, by and large being met fully.

Permission to ONGC to File a Case

3622. SHRI KARNEDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has circulated O.M.N. H-5027/8/299-IR (Impt. I) dt. 19th March, 1999 of Ministry of Labour;

(b) whether the same was received by ONGC;